COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TECHNICAL RECONSIDERATION OF

H.R. 534
(RECREATIONAL BOAT USER FEE RELIEF ACT)

I.   Background

On October 16, 1991, the Committee on Ways and Means
("Ways and Means") ordered reported H.R. 534, which had been
sequentially referred to it following action by the Committee
on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. That sequential referral
has been extended through October 22, 1991, to allow Ways and
Means to make a technical modification to its prior action.

H.R. 534, as ordered reported by Ways and Means, repeals
the recreational boat user fee imposed by the Omnibus Budget
Reconciliation Act of 1990, effective October 1, 1992,
subject to an anti-sequester provision. Full repeal of the
fee is contingent on sufficient offsetting revenues being
raised by a newly imposed access fee to an Automated Tariff
Filing and Information System (the "ATFI system") being
developed by the Federal Maritime Commission (the "FMC access
fee"). As ordered reported by Ways and Means, the FMC access
fee would be effective on October 1, 1992.

A complete description of present law, the applicable
legislative background, and the provisions approved by Ways
and Means on October 16, 1991, is attached. (JCX-21-91)

II.   Technical Issue for Consideration

Subsequent to the Ways and Means action, the
Congressional Budget Office informed Ways and Means that the
bill, as ordered reported, would generate an increase in
direct spending in FY 1992, thereby threatening a
pay-as-you-go sequester. The source of the increased direct
spending is a $4 million repayable advance to be made to the
FMC to defray start-up costs associated with the ATFI system.
The prior Ways and Means action provided for no new revenues
until FY 1993 (i.e., the FMC access fee was to be effective
on October 1, 1992).

III.   Possible Option

Advance the effective date of the FMC access fee from
October 1, 1992, to July 1, 1992, to offset the effect of the
$4 million repayable advance to the FMC and to protect
against a possible sequester.